

# PROVINCE ANNOUNCES \$26 MILLION FUNDING FOR FRENCH EDUCATION

## FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO ASSIST WITH ADDITIONAL \$4 MILLION ANNUALLY

**BAMBANG SADEWO**  
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Ontario has announced a \$26 million funding for the current school year to bolster French-language education in the province.

Stephen Lecce, minister of education, made the announcement at École élémentaire catholique Milton-Sud, a new French school in Milton, on Sept. 5.

"Our government understands the importance of French-language education and is investing to the highest levels to ensure we

prepare and defend French history, culture and identity within our province," said Lecce in a release. "The funds announced today underscore our commitment to Francophone students so that they receive a meaningful and modern education with the support and resources they need to succeed."

Lecce also announced that the federal government will invest an additional \$4 million per year over the next four years to support Francophone students in Ontario. The extra



Minister of Education Stephen Lecce and Milton MPP Parm Gill pose with students at École élémentaire catholique Milton-Sud following the funding announcement on Thursday, Sept. 5.

Bambang Sadewo/Torstar

funding was the result of negotiations between Ottawa, provinces and territories.

The release says the investments will help provide resources to address the delivery of French-language education in the

province, allow school boards to develop new e-learning courses, increase educational opportunities in STEM fields: science, technology, engineering, and math - as well as skilled trades, and more.

The announcement was

also attended by Minister of Francophone Affairs Caroline Mulroney, Halton Region Chair Gary Carr, Mayor Gord Krantz, and Milton MPP Parm Gill.

"I'm proud of the fact that we're bringing these investments that the community

deserves and needs," Gill said. "So our young children and our youth can continue to receive the necessary education, so they can continue to prosper and be good citizens and contribute toward our economy ... ultimately."

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### LEANING TOWER OF PISA SAVED

Construction of the Leaning Tower of Pisa began in 1173 and continued until 1372 - about 200 years. While many were involved in its construction, the identity of the initial Architect is unknown. No original documents exist and there is no "signature" on the building itself to shed light on this mystery. What we do know is that the building began to lean within five years of the onset of construction.

800 years later, the Tower was heading towards catastrophic collapse. A Rescue Commission was assembled bringing together thirteen of the most brilliant minds in construction and engineering to save the structure. In 1990, the Leaning Tower of Pisa was closed to the public and a restoration project commenced that lasted more than ten years and cost close to thirty million euros. Because of the efforts of the Rescue Commission, this incredible Tower was re-opened in 2001 and still stands today. More than two million tourists per year enjoy the beauty of this iconic structure, part of a UNESCO World Heritage Site located in Pisa, Italy.

But what caused the lean in the first place? What was the problem?

Bad design? Poor workmanship? An inferior grade of marble?

No. The problem was what was underneath. The tower was built on the shifting sands of a former estuary. The soil was not stable enough to support a monument of this size. The tower had no firm foundation. The solution involved reinforcing the soil under the foundation and stabilizing the structure.

What is true in construction is true in spiritual life as well - a firm foundation is needed to prevent future collapse. Restoration is possible.

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Submitted by Pastor Dan Rogge of Milton's New Life Church



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